



Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation

Making forestry work for the poor: Adapting forest policies to poverty alleviation strategies in Asia and the Pacific

March 2010-December 2011

TERMINAL REPORT

Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Regional office for Asia and the Pacific

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TERMINAL REPORT

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1. Background and rationale

Since the launch of the Millennium Development Goals over a decade ago, efforts have been made around the world to improve the contribution of different economic sectors to poverty reduction. Forestry is a particularly important sector due to the substantial overlap between highly forested areas and areas with a high incidence of poverty in South and Southeast Asia. Potential of forestry to contribute to the welfare of poor rural people should therefore be considerable.

Despite the wide recognition of the fact that forests and forestry have significant impact on rural poor livelihoods, due to the fact that forests areas are frequently far from markets, and because poorer people have neither the knowledge, the capital nor the networks to benefit from forest resources, poverty alleviation has remained an elusive goal. Additionally, land and resource tenure and access rights are frequently weak in remote areas and authorities have, until recently, been reluctant to allocate rights to the local level. To effectively implement systems to reduce poverty through forestry in rural areas may require investment, review of the regulatory environment, policy support and/or capacity building in different measures.

Commercial aspects of forestry such as collection, processing and marketing of non-wood forest products; use of stumps and branches of trees left after industrial logging; and ecotourism activities can provide income for the rural poor where conditions allow. Frequently, impediments to implementation prevent benefits reaching those most in need – policies, permits and lack of guiding support can isolate the rural poor from markets and leave forests without the stewardship necessary for sustainable management. Industrial forestry, including plantation production of wood products also supports income generation under the right conditions and employment in the wood processing industry has contributed significantly to household income around the Pacific coasts of Asia, where export markets are within reach.

Over the past decade, forests have been increasingly recognized for the valuable environmental services they provide, and there has been a growing interest in regulatory and market-based schemes of payment for ecosystem services. The role of forests in climate change mitigation and opportunities for REDD+ and carbon payments for forestry-related carbon offsets offer promising new avenues for sustainable forest management through involvement and inclusion of forest-dependent poor people.

2. Project goal and objectives

The goal of the project was to assist forestry agencies in strategic planning and developing means to reduce poverty through sustainable forest management and forest rehabilitation.

Specific objectives were:

1. To draw together methods and means by which poverty has been effectively reduced in South and Southeast Asian developing countries;
2. To build capacity within forestry agencies and local NGOs through engagement in assessment of past efforts to reduce poverty through forestry;
3. To distribute findings to an Asia-Pacific audience and increase awareness of effective means to adapt forest policies to poverty alleviation strategies.

The target groups included government forest agencies in the 11 target countries whose needs and constraints are primarily related to low capacity and lack of experience in

implementing SFM. The final beneficiaries included forest dependent people and forest users who are often constrained by poverty in decisions regarding deforestation and degradation. The project aimed at addressing the needs and constraints of the target groups by providing information, training and technical support while facilitating communication with key forest stakeholders and stakeholders in forest related sectors.

3. Project outputs and activities

The project outputs and activities included in the project document were as follows:

Output 1: Document methods and means by which poverty has been effectively reduced in the Asia-Pacific region.

Activity 1.1.: Conduct forestry-poverty country studies

Output 2: Strengthen capacity within forestry agencies and local NGOs for strategic planning and for integrating poverty alleviation measures in forestry policy.

Activity 2.1.: Regional workshop on strategic planning in forestry

Activity 2.2.: Twelve (12) participants from target countries trained in forest policy analysis.

Activity 2.3.: National forest planning workshops.

Output 3: Increase awareness of effective means to adapt forest policies to poverty alleviation strategies.

Activity 3.1.: Synthesizing key project findings into 3 to 5 policy briefs aimed at supporting forest policy adaptation to reduce poverty in target countries.

Activity 3.2.: Printing and distributing policy briefs to national and regional policy makers and agencies and organisations influencing policy processes.

4. Description of work implemented

1.2. Assessment of the contribution of forestry to poverty alleviation in Asia and the Pacific

In relation to output 1, activity 1.1 and output 2 activities 2.1 and 2,3, a Letter of Agreement (LoA) was signed with Asia Forest Network (AFN), a regional NGO based in the Philippines, on 13 December 2010, for the implementation of the study, "Assessment of the Contribution of Forestry to Poverty Alleviation in Asia and the Pacific". The total value of the LOA is US\$83 385.

The two main outputs were:

- (1) the successful implementation of the regional workshop and summary of proceedings (submitted with this report); and
- (2) a final report including 11 country study reports and 11 summary reports of national workshops (regional report containing 11 country studies and an overview paper, and summary reports from national workshop submitted with this report).

To complete the work, AFN contracted consultants for the 11 countries covered by the study (Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam); provided support for the design and implementation of a regional workshop; coordinated implementation of country studies and reports; reviewed the country reports and gave feedback to the authors; and coordinated with FAO on the implementation of the project (see below).

Upon the initiation of the Letter of Agreement between AFN and FAO, FAO wrote to Forestry Departments in involved countries to initiate the coordination of the country studies and nominate a consultant to carry out the study. The selection process allowed the Forestry Departments to accept the nominated person or to suggest an alternate consultant if they so preferred. Following confirmation of the consultants by the Forestry Departments responsibility was turned over to AFN for the contracting process. Delays in the confirmation of identified consultants and/or selection of alternate consultants resulted in the significant delay in contracting consultants in three countries (India, Indonesia and Thailand).

For Bhutan, contracting was undertaken directly by FAO as a departmental agreement was required rather than an individual contract given that government staff cannot be contracted in Bhutan. AFN coordinated the implementation and submission of the study.

In all countries except Indonesia and India, national dissemination workshops were undertaken and summary reports are submitted with this report. In India, the \$500 funding was insufficient to hold a national workshop and the national consultant proposed that a meeting be held in conjunction with another suitable national level meeting. However, a suitable opportunity did not arise within the timeframe of the project. In Indonesia, difficulties with the consultant hired meant that the dissemination workshop had to be cancelled.

Final papers from the countries were submitted to AFN during the last quarter of 2011 and editing to improve clarity was subsequently undertaken. An overview paper was drafted by AFN and FAO and the report was formatted for publication in the first quarter of 2012.

Regional workshop

FAO and AFN collaborated in running the regional workshop on 'Assessment of the contribution of forestry to poverty alleviation in Asia and the Pacific' on 8–9 March 2011 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. There were 29 participants, comprising all the contracted consultants and Forest Department representatives together with the three partners involved (APFNet, AFN and FAO). A full report on the meeting is submitted with this report.

The two-day workshop provided a venue for the participants to share and exchange regional and country developments and situations on poverty alleviation and forests/the forestry sector and to discuss the methodology for the conduct of the case studies and results dissemination activity.

During the first day, FAO and AFN provided background information on the overview of forestry sector developments in the Asia-Pacific region to 2020; the role of forests in poverty alleviation; and brief discussions on three focal areas of forestry (namely, traditional and community forestry; commercial and industrial forestry; and payment for ecological services) and poverty alleviation. The presentations served as inputs for the subsequent plenary discussion and subgroup exchanges of country situations and experiences among the national representatives. The presentations and subgroup discussions were also intended as inputs to help guide the consultants in preparing the country reports.

On the second day, participants discussed the methodology for implementing the three case studies. The proposed methodology – criteria for site selection, list of questions, identification

of respondents – was presented to help consultants think through their case study plans,

The aims and proposed guidelines for the implementation of the national dissemination workshop or meeting, which was part of the strategy of engagement with government and communication of the poverty alleviation-forestry agenda, were presented. Clarifications and suggestions were raised regarding the scale of the activity, invitees and coordination with the Forest Departments.

APFW partner event

To promote the work of the project a second LoA for \$50,339 (Fifty thousand three hundred and thirty nine US dollars) was signed with AFN to hold a half day partner event on 'Making forestry work for the poor' at the second Asia-Pacific Forestry Week in Beijing (7-11 November 2011). A report from the meeting is submitted with this report. The LoA also covered printing 1000 copies of the final regional report on 'Making forestry work for the poor'.

1.3. Asia-Pacific forest policy briefs

Eight policy briefs covering the Asia-Pacific region were published using project funds and are available here: <http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/rap/nre/links/forestry-outlook/en/#policybriefs>

The briefs cover the following subjects:

1. Forests for a greener future
2. Back to basics: field-level forestry
3. The forest biodiversity challenge
4. Reinventing forest policies and institutions
5. Learning for the future: forestry training and education
6. Better governance, better forestry
7. Making forests work for the poor
8. Forests and gender in a changing environment

The briefs were developed on the basis of work undertaken under the Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study except for brief 7 on 'Making forests work for the poor' which was funded by this project and based on the results of the assessment of the contribution of forestry to poverty alleviation.

1.1. Executive forest policy short course

The third and fifth run of the FAO executive forest policy short course were supported by the project. Reports from both meetings were submitted to APFNet and are also submitted with this report.

Third executive forest policy short course

The third FAO "Executive Forest Policy Short Course" was organized in collaboration with RECOFTC, APFNet, the EU-FLEGT Asia Support Programme, the National Forest Programme Facility and the USA Forest Service. Four participants were sponsored by the project to take part in the course in Bangkok from 8-19 March 2010. The 19 course participants originated from Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. They consisted of mid- to upper-level professionals from the public, private sector and civil society working on forestry or natural resource management issues in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

Course content included subject matter on forest policy and poverty alleviation. Resource

persons and facilitators included experienced international foresters, forest policy makers, private sector managers and professional educators. Based on the four phases of the policy process, the course facilitators integrated topics related to analytical and communication skills with an in-depth exploration of the economic, environmental and social issues.

Fifth executive forest policy short course

The Fifth Executive Forest Policy Short Course was held 17-26 May 2011, in Beijing, China. The project provided funding for 10 participants. The overall objective of this course was to train Chinese forestry officers, policy makers, trainers and practitioners in policy analysis and development so as to address the new challenges for forest policy making, arising from rapidly changing conditions and expectations. A group of 27 course participants, composed of 22 mid- to upper-level forestry administrators (from counties, municipalities/prefectures, provinces and national level) and 5 researchers from 2 forestry research institutes and 1 university (FEDRC, CAF, Renmin University) attended the course. Resource persons and facilitators included experienced international foresters, forest policy makers, forest policy researchers and forestry project managers.

5. Inputs applied

See Section 7 for project financial statement. The table below specifies expenditure on consultants, travel and training during the project.

Consultants	Wang Hong (6 months from 23 September 2010 -22 March 2011)
	Wang Hong (4 months from 17 April - 16 August 2011)
	Jeremy Broadhead (1.5 months WAE during March - June 2011)
	Jeremy Broadhead (1.5 months 20 June - 4 August 2011)
	Jeremy Broadhead (1.5 months 6 September - 20 October 2011)
	Christopher Brown (2 months from 15 April -14 June 2011)
	Christopher Brown (1.5 months from 16 August- 30 September 2011)
	Cor P Veer (25 days WAE during 16 April - 8 June 2011)
	Peter O'Hara (6 days WAE during 17-24 May 2011)
Travel	Travel cost for participants to attend the workshop on "The contribution of Forestry to Poverty Alleviation in Asia and the Pacific", Chiang Mai, March 8-9, 2011, including FAO staff (J Broadhead, P Durst, Wang Hong, K Meechantra)
	Travel cost for Wang Hong, P Durst, Cor Veer, and E. Fontien to organize Fifth Forest Policy Short Course, Beijing, China
Training	Third forest policy short course (organized by RECOFTC during 8-19 March 2010, Bangkok, Thailand) for 4 sponsored participants (Mr Heng Sokh-Cambodia, Mr Qun Zhang-China, Mr Bounsouane Phongohichith-Lao and Mr Somdet Champee - Thailand)
	Ms Wang Hong's training on Supervisory Skills - UN ESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand:27-29/6/11
	Co-organization of the Fifth Forest Policy Short Course, 17-27 May 2011, Beijing, China by FAO and STAFA (STATE ACADEMY OF FORESTRY ADMINISTRATION)
	Organization of workshop on "The contribution of Forestry to Poverty Alleviation in Asia and the Pacific"

6. Achievements according to objectively verifiable indicators

Design summary	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Sources and means of verification	Achievement
<p>Outputs</p> <p>1. Document methods and means by which poverty has been effectively reduced in the Asia-Pacific region.</p>	<p>1.1. Country studies implemented according agreed methodology.</p> <p>1.2. Methods and means by which poverty has been effectively reduced through forestry are documented.</p> <p>1.3. Findings from country studies integrated in other project activities.</p>	<p>Consultants reports</p> <p>Eleven forestry-poverty country studies available</p> <p>Case-studies for the second forest policy short courses of the project developed on basis of the country studies</p>	<p>Country reports were submitted and included details of in-country case studies.</p> <p>Policy brief on 'Making forestry work for the poor' was drafted and published.</p>
<p>2. Strengthen capacity within forestry agencies and local NGOs for strategic planning and for integrating poverty alleviation measures in forestry policy.</p>	<p>2.1. Organized regional and national workshops involving participants of forestry agencies and local NGOs.</p> <p>2.2. Twelve participants from the targeted region participated at the two forest policy short courses.</p>	<p>Regional and national workshops reports and summaries.</p> <p>Evaluation reports of the two forest policy short courses.</p>	<p>Regional workshop proceedings were submitted along with national workshops summaries</p> <p>Two forest policy short courses were implemented and final reports were submitted. Fourteen participants (4+10) were funded by the project.</p>
<p>3. Increase awareness of effective means to adapt forest policies to poverty alleviation strategies.</p>	<p>3.1. Awareness of means by which forest policies and plans may be adapted to reduce poverty is increased.</p>	<p>3-5 Policy briefs for poverty reduction available</p>	<p>Eight policy briefs were drafted and published.</p> <p>Partner event was held at Asia-Pacific Forestry Week in Beijing</p>